

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON REFORM
AND SUBVERSION

1. PRESIDENT HAMDI TOOK OCCASION SPEECH TO SANAA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS MARCH 4 TO COMMENT ON REFORM PROGRAM OF JUNE 13 CORRECTIVE

MOVEMENT AND ON SECURITY SITUATION. SPEECH ITSELF WAS TO THANK
STUDENTS WHO ALL PARTICIPATED IN YAR'S FIRST CENSUS IN FEBRUARY.

2. HAMDI WAS USUAL DISARMINGLY FRANK SELF. COMMENTING ON
REFORM PROGRAM HE SAID FLATLY "WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING WORTH-
WHILE...IT IS NOT SHAMEFUL TO ADMIT FACTS RATHER THAN
DECEIVE OURSELVES." HAMDI URGED STUDENTS TO JOIN OTHERS WITH
CLEAN HANDS IN DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO REFORMS. SINCE YARG
RESPECTED FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, IT WELCOMED CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM,
ESPECIALLY FROM ITS YOUTH.

3. AT SAME TIME, WHILE YARG RESPECTED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION,
IT WOULD FIGHT SUBVERSION. PRESIDENT RECEIVED NEWS CONSTANTLY
OF TERRORISM, E.G. IN PAST MONTH ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE KILLED BY
LANDMINES. IF ANYONE HAD GRIEVANCE, LET HIM COME FORWARD. THOSE
WHO KILL, HOWEVER, WOULD BE KILLED.

4. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT YARG HAD NOW EXTENDED ITS
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AUTHORITY THROUGH LENGTH AND BREADTH OF YAR ARMY, POLICE

AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES WERE SETTING UP GOVT. APPARATUS IN THE (JAWF) AREA IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS. ADDITIONALLY GOVERNOR OF SAADA AND STAFF HAD EXTENDED CONTROL, INCLUDING BORDER AND CUSTOMS POSTS, RIGHT UP TO SAUDI BORDER. THIS REFUTED THOSE WHO CLAIMED YARG HAD "SOLD OR IGNORED ITS LANDS". (A REFERENCE TO LEFTIST CRITICISM OF EX-PRIMIN HAJIRI'S 1973 ACTION IN RENEWING 1934 TREATY OF TAIF, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED SAG SOVEREIGNTY OVER ETHNICWSGP YEMENI PROVINCE OF ASIR).

5. COMMENT: HAMDI FOLLOWED THEME OF MANY EARLIER TALKS IN APPEALING FOR MODERNIST (INCLUDING MODERATE LEFTIST) SUPPORT IN CARRYING OUT REFORM, WHILE PROMISING UNREMITTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEFTIST SUBVERSIVES. HE IS CLEARLY PROUD OF YARG'S SUCCESS IN BRINGING REMOTE JAWF BACK INTO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL, WHICH APPEARS TO BE REAL ALTHOUGH STILL TENUOUS.

6. FROM OTHER SOURCES WE ARE AWARE OF RECENT UPSURGE OF RURAL TERRORISM IN CENTRAL (YARIM-DHAMMAR-RADAA) AREAS. ALTHOUGH YARG OFFICIALS BLAME THIS DEVELOPMENT ON PDRY, THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS THAT IT DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO RECENT RE-INTRODUCTION ZAYDI TRIBAL FORCES INTO SHAFI' AREA, IN PLACE LARGELY SHAFI' PARATROOPERS. IT NOT UNLIKELY OF COURSE THAT PDRY WOULD INSTINCTIVELY EXPLOIT ANY SUCH LOCAL GRIEVANCES. IN ANY CASE, UPSURGE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE TRIBAL-DOMINATED CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 4 TO PASS SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS CALLING ON YARG TO MOBILIZE ALL RESOURCES AGAINST TERRORISTS AND TO PUNISH SEVERELY TERRORISTS AND COLLABORATORS. SCOTES

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